

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 21-28, 30-35, 37, 39 and 40 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 21, 22, 25, 28, 30-32, 35, 37 and 39 are amended, and claims 29, 36 and 38 are canceled. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, it is noted that the six Patent Abstracts of Japan submitted with the Information Disclosure Citation upon initial filing have not been considered by the Examiner. Unfortunately, the International Bureau no longer forwards copies of these references to the Examiner, each of them having been listed on the International Search Report. In order to facilitate the Examiner's consideration of these references copies of each of the six Patent Abstracts of Japan listed on the initial Information Disclosure Citation are attached hereto, along with a fresh copy of the Information Disclosure Citation. The Examiner is requested to consider each of the references, and return an initialed copy of the Information Disclosure Citation form.

By this Amendment, the subject matter of claim 29 (canceled), has been added to claim 21 to specify that the collection chamber includes a boxed tank slidably received in the seat of the collection chamber. On page 4 of the Office Action, it is indicated that claim 29 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and entered in the intervening claims. It is noted that claim 29 was previously dependent on claim 28, which has not been included in amended claim 21. However, it is not thought that the subject matter of claim 28 was material to the Examiner's indication that the subject matter of claim 29 would be allowable. If this understanding is not consistent with the Examiner's indication, he is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss possible further amendment to claim 21.

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In addition, enclosed is a copy of an Examination Report in relation to corresponding European application. Note that paragraph 5 of the Examination Report includes a "Suggestion" from the European Examiner, that incorporation of the subject matter of dependent claim 10 of the European application, which recites that the boxed tank means is slidably received in a seat of the collection chamber, would place the application in condition for allowance. This suggestion of allowable subject matter in the European application is consistent with the U.S. Examiner's indication that claim 29 of the U.S. application defines allowable subject matter.

In addition, independent claim 25 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 38, including intervening claim 36.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140 under Order No. PTB-4884-4.

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Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____ /Paul T. Bowen/
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PTB:jck

Attachments:

Copy of Information Disclosure Citation
Six Patent Abstracts of Japan
European Examination Report

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